

eagles have become quite sociable and are often seen sitting quite close to each other. It will also be interesting to see if this easy life has diminished their breeding urge. For even during the breeding season, i.e. November to April, no nest was found in the vicinity of this site. Eagles were never seen carrying nesting material or to build nests. In fact a majority of them used to roost at night on nearby hill slopes and apparently never left the site at all. The problem however, needs fuller investigation.

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POONA-30,  
May 18, 1973.

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#### 4. STOMACH CONTENTS OF THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD, *CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS* (VIGORS)

The Great Indian Bustard, *Choriotis nigriceps* (Vigors) is one of the most magnificent of Indian birds. Its dwindling population has been a matter of great concern to conservationists for a number of years.

Through the kindness of Shri H. C. Gupta, Divisional Forest Officer, Jodhpur and Shri Y. D. Singh, Zoo Supervisor, Jodhpur, I had an opportunity of examining the stomach contents of a bird caught in August, 1970, near Pokaran (Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan). The stomach was full being filled with *Uromastix hardwickii*, scorpion fragments, sun-spider (*Galzodes orientalis*), beetles (*Gymnopleurus ? sindensis* and *Atactogaster* sp.), fruits of *Capparis* sp., and a few seeds of undetermined species. The weight of each item is given in Table 1 below. Before taking the weight the stomach contents had been preserved in rectified spirit and then dried by soaking the moisture on a blotting paper. As such the data is only suggestive of the quantity of food a bird may require for one feed.

TABLE 1

FOOD ITEMS AND THEIR WEIGHT

<i>Uromastix hardwickii</i> (1 ex.)	18.81 gm	17.60%
Scorpion parts	0.70 gm	0.65%
Spider (1 ex.)	3.00 gm	2.80%
Beetles (entire and crushed)	82.27 gm	77.03%
Fruits of <i>Capparis</i> sp. (7 exs.)	2.02 gm	1.89%
Seeds negligible in weight		
Total	106.80 gm	99.97%

I am thankful to Dr. B. K. Tikader and Dr. T. G. Vazirani for identification of spider and beetles respectively.

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#### 5. THE NILGIRI WOOD PIGEON, *COLUMBA ELPHINSTONII* (SYKES) ON SALSETTE ISLAND, BOMBAY

On 17th November 1973, we, along with Mr. Banshi Mehta, sat up in a forest covered valley in the Borivli National Park to see a leopard which was said to pass through the valley. As dusk fell several birds (mainly jungle crows) arrived to roost for the night on the trees in the valley. Among these, we were pleasantly surprised to see a Nilgiri Wood Pigeon *Columba elphinstonii* (Sykes) land on a tree close to where we were sitting. The large size, and 'chessboard' patch on the hind neck were very definitive. The bird spent the night on the tree and the identification was confirmed when it left early in the morning. The HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN 3 : 133 gives the northern range of the species as 'c. 19°N. lat. (a little beyond Bombay)'. A bird of higher elevation<sup>1</sup> it is rarely recorded below c. 600 m and the specimen seen was probably a bird in passage. The species is an addition to the birds of Bombay and Salsette Islands.

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#### 6. THE BROWNWINGED STORKBILLED KINGFISHER *PELARGOPSIS AMAUROPTERA* (PEARSON) IN ORISSA

While on a visit to the mangrove forests of the Chandbali coast of Orissa (c 20°47'N ; 86°55'E) we saw a large species of Kingfisher unfamiliar to us. A pair was collected and later identified at the Society as the Brownwinged Storkbilled Kingfisher. This remarkably handsome

<sup>1</sup> Found at Khandala, Matheran and common at Mahableshtar—Salim Ali.